

17 AUG 1967

EAF/ER
~~Director~~
DD/OER file

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Economic Research

SUBJECT : Comments on Representative Ford's Statements
Regarding the Air War in North Vietnam

1. Representative Gerald Ford, in a press conference held on 8 August 1967, asserted that the President had severely reduced the effectiveness of the Rolling Thunder Program by imposing restrictions on targets that may be struck and cited a number of statistics to support this view.

2. It is difficult to analyze Representative Ford's assertions with precision because of the terminology used. He referred to "significant military targets" and "top priority targets." The only list of "priority" or "significant" targets available on North Vietnam is the Joint Chiefs of Staff Target List. The JCS target list contains 242 of the most significant military and economic targets in North Vietnam. Very few significant targets are not on the JCS list, and most of these have been available as targets.

3. Our analysis indicates that the restrictions have not been as severe as implied and that considerably more targets have been struck than Representative Ford suggests.

4. The attached Annex A gives Representative Ford's statements and our comments. Annex B shows JCS targets by type of target and the number and percentage not struck or authorized to be struck. A summary of the restrictions on air strikes in force between 20 July 1967 and 8 August 1967 and the supplementary authorization for strikes issued on 8 August 1967 is presented in Annex C.

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[Redacted]
Acting Chief, Trade and Services DivisionAttachments: (3)
As stated.